(a) whether it is a fact that the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently introduced the concept of anchor investment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An issuer making a public issue of shares through book building may allocate on a discretionary basis up to 30 per cent of the Qualified Institutional Buyer [QIB as defined in SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines, 2000(DIP Guidelines)] portion of the issue to Anchor Investors (AI) subject to a minimum application size of Rs. 10 crore, stipulated margin requirement and lock-in. No person related to the promoter/promoter group/merchant bankers can apply as AI. The price of acquisition of such shares cannot be less than the price fixed as a result of book building.

Mobile Banking Services

1039. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are proposing to cut interest rates for the loans given or being given;

(b) if so, how much interest rate will be reduced, category-wise;

(c) whether some of the Nationalized Banks have launched Mobile Banking Services;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether there will be cash transactions also in these Mobile Banking Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Interest rates on advances above Rs.2 lakhs are deregulated and determined by banks themselves. In response to reduction in key Policy Rates by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have been reducing their Benchmark Prime Lending Rates (BPLRs) and interest rates on advances since October, 2008.

(c) to (e) The RBI has authorised 17 Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as on 30th June, 2009 to introduce Mobile Banking Services. The services being offered by these banks will enable customers of banks to carry out fund transfer both inter-bank and intra-bank. In addition, the customer users will also be able to access their accounts for balance enquiry, ordering statements, cheque books, drafts and making utility bill and insurance premia payments. However, cash pay in and pay out would be permissible only at authorised locations of banks (*viz.* branches and business correspondents).

Outstanding taxes against MNCs

1040. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Multi-National Corporations (MNCs) owe crores of rupees in taxes to Government;

(b) if so, the amount of Income Tax and other Corporate Taxes outstanding against MNCs as on date;

(c) the reasons for not recovering the taxes from the companies by Government; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to recover the outstanding taxes from the MNCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Sir, information in respect of outstanding tax against Multi National Corporations is not centrally maintained. To furnish the details would require compilation of data at all the field formations spread throughout the country and the time and efforts required would not be commensurate with the objective sought to achieve it. The total arrear demand as on 30.5.2009 is Rs.2,10,404 crores (both Income tax and Corporate tax)

(c) Out of the arrear demand of Rs.2,10,404 crores the net collectible demand is only Rs.18,200 crores. The rest of the demand cannot be recovered because of the following reasons:- (i) the demand has been stayed by the Courts/Tribunal (ii) the demand pertains to persons notified under section 3 of Special Court (Torts) Act, 1992 and so no recovery can be made directly from such persons (iii) the case is before B.I.F.R and so recovery cannot be enforced (iv) the company is under liquidation (v) case is before Settlement Commission (vi) the demand is arising from protective assessment (vii) the demand has been stayed (viii) the demand is covered by instalments.

(d) Apart from the statutory measures being taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under the Income Tax Act (including attachment of Bank Account, debtors etc. attachment and sale of immovable properties etc.) the following special measures have also been taken to expedite recovery of direct tax arrears in all cases (i) making it obligatory for the Income Tax Appellate Tribunals to decide appeals, where stay has been granted, within 180 days of the date on which the stay order was passed (ii) taking away the powers of the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeal) to set aside a case (iii) monitoring of high demand cases by Directorate of Recovery and the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

Contravention of Foreign Exchange Management Act by companies

1041. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 453 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19 February, 2009 and state:

(a) whether Directorate of Enforcement have completed the investigations for alleged Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) contravention by Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group (ADAG) as requested by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for violating External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) guidelines;